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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the committee on its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(item 4 (a))

Section 33. Development Account

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 June 2001, the Committee considered section 33, Development Account, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The view was expressed that the administrative arrangements and modalities of operation of the Development Account were too vague.

4. The basis for the provision of funds under this budget section at the same level as in the past two biennia was questioned. It was recalled that the resources to be proposed in this section were to be generated from efficiency savings and productivity gains. It was noted, however, that no mention of such savings was made in the narrative of the fascicle.

5. It was explained that the basis for the initial 1998-1999 appropriation of $13,065,000 under the Development Account was the efficiency savings realized in

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the biennium 1996-1997 and that these had been reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 1996-1997. In establishing the Development Account, the General Assembly had decided that the amount approved for one biennium would constitute the base for the following biennium, and that this base would be increased by the amounts of savings generated by efficiency measures and productivity gains achieved during the previous biennium. These savings would be reported biennially by the Secretariat in the context of the second budget performance report, and the General Assembly would decide on the amounts of savings which would be provided for the Development Account. It was indicated that no new additional savings were identified in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 and that it was not possible, at this stage, to project for the biennium 2000-2001. This was the reason why the same amount as in the past two biennia was proposed under the section.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 33, Development Account, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

7. The Committee recommended that, when considering section 33, the General Assembly also take into account the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/55/913).